

REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Weather-wise the winter of 2018–‘19 was quite average. Each month tracked close to its historic average temperature, diverging by only a degree or less. In Syracuse, December stood out mainly because the amount of snowfall was well below average (18" less than normal). Throughout most of the Region snow depth rarely surpassed one foot. Unsurprisingly, the exception was the Adirondacks where Gary Lee reported as much as 4' on the ground in Old Forge by late February. Although the small inland lakes were iced-over for much of the period, ice cover on larger lakes waxed and waned. Some nearshore areas on Lake Ontario partially froze at the end of January, thawed and then re-froze towards the end of February. According to Bill Purcell, the eastern end of Oneida Lake didn't freeze over until the second week of January.

To some degree the lack of ice on larger water bodies allowed waterfowl to forage further from shore and away from places where they could be easily tallied and contributed to relatively low waterfowl counts in some traditional hotspots. The exceptions were Oswego Harbor and the east end of Onondaga Lake. In fact, the former area became particularly productive after the third week of January. Lack of snow on the ground during the time window when CBCs take place led to some unimpressive bird tallies, at least in Count circles that possess no large open lakes. Many participants complained that songbirds weren't concentrating at feeders, there were no birds in the woods, and the manure-spread fields lacked Snow Buntings and Horned Larks. Unsurprisingly, the lack of wild food in the Region's forests depressed the number of wintering songbirds. Expected half-hardies were thin on the ground and winter specialties were hard to come by. Quite probably the lack of forest mast led to a smaller prey base for raptors and shrikes.

Many birders waited for the Snow Goose migration to get underway and were largely disappointed, as the species mostly bypassed our Region this period. Best showing was 1040 that flew over Oswego on 16 December. A flock of 31 Greater White-fronted Geese was a great find by Gerry Case at Green Lakes State Park on 16 February. The flock remained through the 23rd of the month and many birders got to see them. Also, at Green Lakes State Park, Robert Reynolds photographed an oddly-plumaged goose presumed to be a Snow X Canada Goose hybrid. Most Tundra Swan sightings came from Oneida Lake, with a high count of 67 at Brewerton on 1 January. The numbers of

wintering dabbling ducks were especially low, and no rarities were reported. Predictably, diving duck numbers and diversity were better. A maximum number of 49 Canvasbacks at Onondaga Lake on 2 January is the best showing in a few years for that species. Tallies of *Aythya* ducks were not as notable with maximum numbers of Greater Scaup topping out at 800. A gorgeous adult male **King Eider** was found by Gregg Dashnau and Kevin McGann on 2 February at Oswego Harbor. It remained through the period and attracted scores of birders. By contrast, an immature male Harlequin Duck discovered by Mickey Scilingo on 24 February at the same location was not relocated. A decent maximum number of 2000 Long-tailed Ducks was tallied at Oswego Harbor on 3 February. All three scoter species were represented this period and it was excellent year at the harbor for White-winged. On 3 February Matthew Brown found and photographed a likely Common Goldeneye X Hooded Merganser hybrid at Port Ontario. Unfortunately, the unusual duck was not relocated after the day of discovery. A respectable maximum count of 2000 Red-breasted Mergansers came from Fair Haven on 19 December, but indiscriminate duck hunting from behind the east/west breakwall continues.

There were three reports of Killdeer this period. The last one on February 24 in Durhamville was undoubtedly a returning migrant, but one at DeRuyter on 28 December and another in Syracuse on 5 February, likely represented wintering birds. Birders found the diversity and overall number of gulls this winter very disappointing. Gregg Dashnau found a Little Gull and an immature Black-legged Kittiwake at Oswego Harbor on 31 January. Neither lingered beyond that very windy last day of 2018. Iceland and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seldom encountered during the period. At the Phoenix dam on 10 February Bill Purcell found an Iceland Gull he considered a candidate for the *glaucoides* subspecies that inhabits northern Europe and lacks gray markings in the wingtips. It is difficult to clinch the ID under field conditions.

A single Black-crowned Night-Heron was encountered several times on the Onondaga Lake Creekwalk between 3-13 January by Deborah Dohne. In recent years we've had a more consistent presence of the species at that location. Though continuing to be scarce away from the traditional Jamesville-Fayetteville area, Turkey Vultures were present in southern Oneida County in the Town of Kirkland where they were seen almost daily. There were only two reports of Golden Eagles this period—both from December. At least through the first week of February, a pair of Northern Goshawks were reliable visitors to Linda Salter's property near the Hamlet of Sheds in Madison County. The Goshawks are thought to breed in an adjacent state forest and hunt the songbirds that visit her well-stocked bird feeders. The number of wintering Bald Eagles on Onondaga Lake was impressive this season. This period a maximum number of 99 were counted at one time around the southeast end of the lake, perched in shoreline trees, attending the ice edge, and roosting in trees above "Murphy's Island." Would this number be surpassed March? Only the Spring Kingbird report will tell. Good numbers were also reported from Oneida Lake (21) on 1

January and on Cross Lake (15) on 9 February. There were relatively few reports of Rough-legged Hawks this period. Birders had trouble coming up with them away from the most reliable traditional locations.

On Christmas night, Tim Johnston videotaped a pair of Great Horned Owls as they called back and forth from the tops of adjacent hemlock trees in a New Hartford swamp. Light was ebbing, but he managed to see the pair copulate. At the time Johnston said that the female gave what sounded to him like an immature's begging call. In mid-February another pair of Great Horned Owls was found by Gregg Dashnau nesting at the Lakeview amphitheater at Onondaga Lake. This is a problematic nesting site with concerts and large crowds expected much earlier than in prior years, starting May 16. Refer to the next issue of this report to see how the situation was resolved. Snowy Owls were seen at the usual places early in the season, but it was not a great year for them in the Region. A Long-eared Owl was found by Gregg Dashnau at Breitbeck Park near Oswego Harbor on 19 December. He graciously gave credit for the find to a flock of Black-capped Chickadees who were actively mobbing the owl on its perch deep in the branches of a spruce tree. Several birders got to glimpse the bird before it was ultimately flushed by a photographer intent on getting an unobstructed shot. Short-eared Owls were decidedly uncommon this winter. One expired after colliding with a vehicle in the Town of Clay on 30 December. A maximum of two were reported in Oneida from 2-4 February. There were two reports of single Northern Saw-whet Owls, with Karl Curtis finding one near Onondaga Lake.

The only reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers came from the Lake Ontario shoreline, typical for recent times. There were over 25 reports of wintering Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, a good number given it was hardly a banner year for half-hardy types. This period the resident pairs of Peregrine Falcons in the cities of Syracuse and Utica were reported on territory. The latter pair were observed escorting intruding falcons out of their territory on several occasions. Single Peregrines were reported from seven other locations including one adult female in Bridgewater in southern Oneida County. In February, that banded individual was frequently observed hunting Rock Pigeons on a large dairy farm. The leg bands revealed that the falcon was first banded as a nestling in Springfield Massachusetts in May 2016. The same individual was photographed in Rome in September 2017 and in Utica in February 2018.

Five Eastern Phoebe's may have tried to winter in the Region. One at Three Rivers WMA was reported from 12 December through 15 February. The phoebe's were invariably found close to open water where, presumably, there were some invertebrates to hunt. A maximum count of three Northern Shrikes was tallied at Three Rivers on 11 February. Otherwise the species was not commonly encountered. In the eastern half of the Region Northern Shrikes were especially rare. Although high counts of Red-breasted Nuthatches were not particularly impressive, reports of the species were notably widespread and came from many atypical locations. Lack of mast in the north is likely the cause

for their irruption. While participating in the Syracuse CBC on 15 December, David Nash located four Marsh Wrens in Clay Marsh. It's not known how long they lingered beyond that date. There were three reports of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, but none after mid-December. Four Hermit Thrushes were found across the Region and their presence spanned the period. Gray Catbirds were found in two locations and a Brown Thrasher in one. The latter species showed up on 30 January at a Kirkland feeding station, but as far as we know the bird was not seen again.

In late February and through March, the USDA carried out European Starling eradication programs at several large dairy farms in Oneida County. The pesticide (DRC-1339) was applied to bait and left out for the birds to consume. The same pesticide, described as a slow-acting avicide, is used to control birds considered pests of agriculture. Across the country target species include pigeons, House Sparrows, blackbirds, grackles, cowbirds, and others. Although few in the birding community are troubled by the loss of starlings, the real threat posed to non-target species by the program is inaccurately minimized by USDA. At the very least the program was ill-timed as it coincided with the mass return of blackbird flocks to the region. Also, the baiting took place around the time the Region's starlings begin to disperse to breeding grounds primarily in swamps, towns, and cities. Given the winter-like conditions that met our earliest returning blackbirds, it's hard to believe that some weren't drawn in by the tainted bait left for starlings. One of the farms treated was known to have at least one winter resident Cooper's Hawk and an adult Peregrine Falcon (the same banded Peregrine mentioned above). Those raptors were documented as regularly feeding on pigeons and possibly starlings. Fears of detrimental effects on these NYS listed species did not halt the poisoning program. In contradiction to the USDA's press release announcing the eradication program (sent to media and the NYSDEC only one day before the program was set to begin), non-target species can be poisoned and may expire away from the project site. That was the case in January of 2015, when bodies of poisoned American Crows (subsequently tested by the DEC and determined to have ingested the same toxic bait) were found over a mile away. Instances like that do much to erode confidence in the Agency's diligence in conducting eradication programs in ways that minimize impact on non-target species.

Cedar Waxwings were surprisingly elusive this winter. They were rarely encountered in the same place for consecutive days. Their unpredictability (along with that of American Robins) was indicative of the scant amount of available forage. Of the winter finches, Evening Grosbeaks were the only species that mounted a significant irruption, albeit one almost exclusively limited to the Region's higher elevations. The southern highlands of Onondaga and Madison Counties consistently played host to respectable flocks throughout the season. The same was true in the Adirondack Foothills in Herkimer and Oneida Counties. With few exceptions, many in the Region's lower elevations missed out on the grosbeaks. Flocks of Common Redpolls, some sizable,

showed up in parts of the Region, but like the grosbeaks, most of us missed seeing them in our own yards. One report of a **Hoary Redpoll** came from Deborah Dohne at Green Lakes State Park on 19 February. There was only one report of Red Crossbill and two of White-winged Crossbill. None took place after mid-December. Pine Siskins were observed throughout the period but didn't linger in most places. There were only six reports of single Lapland Longspurs around the Region. Snow Bunting numbers were generally low. However, on 6 February a maximum of 4000 (thought a conservative estimate) were seen by Matt Brown in a field in Richland, Oswego County. In Tully, Gene Huggins kept track of a Vesper Sparrow that frequented his feeding stations from 10 January through 22 February. The Vesper Sparrow is a very uncommon winterer in the Region. An adult **Harris's Sparrow** showed up at a feeding station in Earlville on 18 January and remained until 3 February. The property owner, Harmon Hoff, deftly identified the rarity and informed the Region's birding community. Many made the pilgrimage out to see and photograph the wayward sparrow. This was the fourth winter record of the species and the eighth overall in Region 5. Deborah Dohne found both Savannah and Chipping Sparrow on the Syracuse CBC. Surprisingly, both were new species for the 100-year-old count. Along with her usual excellent collection of feeder birds, an adult male **Baltimore Oriole** remained at Linda Salter's through 31 December. It was provided grape jelly and orange halves and appeared healthy up until its unexpected disappearance. Salter speculates one of the area's accipiters may have caught the rather conspicuous oriole. Few birders have seen the species in winter and may not realize it looks much the same as in summer. No Yellow-rumped Warblers were seen this winter, but a male Common Yellowthroat was found by Deborah Dohne along Onondaga Lake's west shore on 12 December. The bird was found and photographed skulking in a cattail bed. It was relocated three days later but not again after that. Extensive birding by both Dohne and Dashnau showed how many birds had lingered along the west shore trail.

This season a total of 144 species was reported, which is two less than the recent 10-year average for the Region. There were also two hybrids reported. Highlights of the season included: Greater White-fronted Goose, Cackling Goose, King Eider, Harlequin Duck, Wilson's Snipe, Black-legged Kittiwake, Little Gull, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Golden Eagle, Snowy Owl, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, N. Saw-whet Owl, Eastern Phoebe, Marsh Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Evening Grosbeak, **Hoary Redpoll**, Chipping Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, **HARRIS'S SPARROW**, **Baltimore Oriole**, and Common Yellowthroat.

Winter 2018–'19 produced 40,187 eBird records for Region 5, and these were processed by Swan Hummingbird v 5.0. Reports were contributed by 341 people. Faithful readers of this publication may have noticed a sudden reduction in the number of Contributors called out by name in that section. eBird recently eliminated observer names from publicly available output to conform with

European privacy laws. It is now much harder for the authors to attach observers to sightings except for widely known and well-documented reports.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BLNC – Beaver L Nature Center, Baldwinsville; **Brew** – Oneida L at Brewerton; **BRH** – Bishop Road Hawk Watch, T Richland; **Bville** – Baldwinsville; **CM** – Clay Marsh, Clay; **DB** – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox; **DH** – Derby Hill, T Mexico; **DL** – Delta L; **Dolge** – Dolgeville, HERK; **FH** – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; **GLSP** – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; **Hast** – Hastings; **HI** – Howland I WMA; **LOS** – Lake Ontario Shoreline, **OLC** – Onondaga L Creekwalk; **OneiL** – Oneida L; **OnonL** – Onondaga L; **OswH** – Oswego Harbor; **SFNS** – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; **SH** – Southern Highlands of ONON & MADI; **Skan** – Skaneateles; **SNC** – Sterling Nature Center, Sterling; **SP** – Sandy Pd and vicinity; **SVB** – Sylvan & Verona Beach; **Syr** – Syracuse; **TR** – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; **VBSP** – Verona Beach SP; **WP** – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

WATERFOWL-DOVES

Snow Goose: 330 OnonL 4 Dec; max 1030 Oswego 16 Dec.

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr & max 31 GLSP 16-23 Feb (GC, mob), great number.

Cackling Goose: GLSP 17-22 Feb (mob); OneiL 24 Feb (KM, MV), only reps.

Canada Goose: 1800 Utica Reservoir 16 Dec; max 2000 GLSP 12 Jan & 2000 17 Feb, same loc.

Snow Goose X Canada Goose (hybrid): GLSP 16 Jan-24 Feb (RR, mob, ph).

Mute Swan: max 76 FH 7 Feb.

Trumpeter Swan: 6 FH 22 Dec; max 8 OswH 26 Jan; 5 Brew 27 Jan-17 Feb.

Tundra Swan: max 67 Brew 1 Jan; 13 OnonL 1 Jan; best counts from OneiL.

Wood Duck: no reps.

Northern Shoveler: WP 2 Dec; max 3 OnonL 6 Feb.

Gadwall: 10 WP 1 Dec; 4 Cazenovia 2 Dec; max 16 OLC 26 Jan.

American Wigeon: max 20 WP 1 Dec; DeWitt 23 Dec; 2 more locs.

Mallard: max 580 WP 15 Dec.

American Black Duck: 70 WP 1 Dec; max 103 Herkimer 15 Jan.
Northern Pintail: 2 WP 15 Dec; DB 12 Jan; only reps.
Green-winged Teal: max 2 WP 20-21 Dec (GM); Eaton 15 (JC) Dec, 29 Jan (KP); only reps.
Canvasback: max 49 OnonL 2 Jan; 31 Brew 6 Jan; 10 OswH 3-10 Feb; 10 FH 22 Feb; better than average numbers.
Redhead: max 1381 OnonL 16 Dec; 500 OswH 2 Feb.
Ring-necked Duck: max 38 WP 3 Dec; 25 Bville 28 Jan; relatively low numbers.
Greater Scaup: 500 FH 10 Feb; max 800 17 Feb; best numbers at OswH.
Lesser Scaup: max 100 OnonL 1 Jan; 50 Oswego 2 Feb; low counts.
Greater Scaup/Lesser Scaup: max 800 OswH 3 Feb; 400 FH 22 Feb.
Aythya sp: max 800 OnonL 12 Jan; 150 OswH 2 Feb.
King Eider: ad m OswH 2 Feb thru (KM, GD, mob, ph).
Harlequin Duck: imm m OswH 24 Feb (MS, ph) only rep.
Surf Scoter: max 6 OswH 7-22 Feb; all reps from LOS.
White-winged Scoter: max 380 OswH 7 Feb; best numbers in Feb.
Black Scoter: 2 OnonL 10 Dec; max 6 OswH 3 Feb (DW).
Scoter sp: max 39 OswH 17 Feb.
Long-tailed Duck: max 2000 OswH 3 Feb; 380 FH 10 Feb.
Bufflehead: max 31 FH 1 Dec; 26 DeRuyter 1 Dec; 30 OnonL 18 Jan.
Common Goldeneye: max 350 Oneil 12 Dec; 200 FH 22 Feb.
Hooded Merganser: max 36 DeRuyter Reservoir 1 Dec; 34 OnonL 13 Jan.
Common Goldeneye X Hooded Merganser (hybrid): OswH 3 Feb (MB, ph).
Common Merganser: 580 Brew 6 Jan; 2210 OLC 7 Feb.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 2000 FH 19 Dec; 150 DH 22 Feb;
Ruddy Duck: 2 WP 1 Dec; OnonL 3 Jan; max 3 Herkimer 12 Feb; low numbers.
Ring-necked Pheasant: 3 TR 5 Dec; max 5 Bville 12 Dec; 3 SP 23 Jan; 5 reps of singles.
Ruffed Grouse: 2 Elbridge 6 Dec; 2 SH 28 Dec; 2 Limekiln Lake 4 Jan; relatively few reps.
Wild Turkey: max 68 Fulton 24 Feb; 65 Volney 27 Feb.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 4 Hatch Lake 1 Dec & 4 OnonL 9 Feb.
Horned Grebe: 2 FH 1 Dec; max 8 OnonL 2 Dec; 2 OswH 2 Feb; only one rep in Jan.
Red-necked Grebe: 4 WP 1 Dec; max 9 OnonL 11 Dec.
Rock Pigeon: max 404 Tully 8 Dec; 300 Syr 15 Dec.
Mourning Dove: max 130 Clay 15 Dec & 130 DB 2 Jan; 87 Dolge 12 Jan.

RAILS-LARIDS

American Coot: max 32 Skan 30 Dec; 4 OnonL 2 Jan.
Killdeer: DeRuyter 28 Dec; Syr 5 Feb; arr Durhamville 24 Feb.
Wilson's Snipe: Liverpool 21 Dec (JB, RK); Manheim 18-19 Jan (BLH); Syr 24 Feb (JB); only reps.
Black-legged Kittiwake: imm OswH 31 Jan (GD), only rep.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 30 Oneil 1 Dec; 8 SP 2 Dec; last OswH 1 Feb.
Little Gull: OswH 31 Jan (GD), only rep.
Ring-billed Gull: 560 FH 10 Feb; max 1050 OswH 22 Feb.
Herring Gull: 1000 MCL 13 -19 Dec; 1200 OswH 31 Jan.
Iceland Gull: 4 OswH 26 Jan; max 5 Canastota 24 Feb.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 Fabius 17 Feb; 2 DB 24 Feb; singles 4 other locs.
Glaucous Gull: 2 OnonL 19 Jan; 2 DB 24 Feb; 2 Fabius 24 Feb; singles 3 other locs.
Great Black-backed Gull: 53 OswH 18 Jan; max 131 OnonL 25 Jan.
Larus species: max 400 OswH 17 Feb.
Gull species: max 600 OnonL 12 Jan.

LOONS-FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: 2 OswH 13 Dec-16 Feb; max 5 FH 19 Dec.
Common Loon: max 3 OnonL 2 Dec-1 Jan & 3 Otisco Lake 2 Dec.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 98 OnonL 14 Dec.
Great Blue Heron: 5 Belgium 1-24 Dec; max 10 Delta Lake 1 Dec; 5 OnonL 15 Dec.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: OLC 3-13 Jan (DD, ph).
Turkey Vulture: 3 SFNS 22 Jan; max 17 Fayetteville 4 Feb.
Golden Eagle: Waterville 4 Dec (RW); Fairfield 11 Dec (BLH); only reps.

Northern Harrier: max 2 OnonL 15 Dec; less common after Dec.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: widespread reports of singles.

Cooper's Hawk: 2 BRH 10 Dec; 2 Syr 5 Jan; 2 OswH 29 Jan; 2 OnonL 23 Feb.

Northern Goshawk: 2 Sheds 4 Jan-7 Feb (LS), resident pair, only rep.

Bald Eagle: 21 OneiL 1 Jan; 15 Cross Lake 9 Feb; max 99 OnonL 15 Feb; large numbers congregate at OnonL in Jan & Feb.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Bouckville, MADI 2 Dec; FH 9 Feb; only reps.

Red-tailed Hawk: 5 OnonL 23 Feb; max 6 Brew 28 Feb.

Rough-legged Hawk: 2 Richfield Springs 22 Dec-27 Dec; max 3 Fairfield 18 Jan & 3 Durhamville 26 Feb; relatively few reps.

Eastern Screech-Owl: 2 Waterville 8 Dec; 2 manlius 19 Dec; 2 Skan 1 Jan; 2 Marcellus 17 Feb; widespread reps of singles.

Great Horned Owl: 2 Fayetteville 2 Dec; 2 Utica 25 Dec; 2 SNC 12 Jan-17 Feb; 2 DL 26 Jan; 2 Lake Moraine, MADI 9 Feb; 7 additional reps of pairs.

Snowy Owl: max 3 Syr Airport 19 Dec; with one exception, reps of singles limited to greater Syr; last Syr Airport 19 Feb.

Barred Owl: 2 Elbridge 13 Dec; 2 Hamilton 19 Dec-5 Feb.

Long-eared Owl: OswH 19 Dec (GD), only rep.

Short-eared Owl: Clay 30 Dec, expired after vehicle impact; max 2 Oneida 2-4 Jan; Richland 17 Jan; only reps.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: OnonL 3 Dec (KC); Waterville 18 Dec; BLNC 28 Jan-4 Feb; only reps.

Belted Kingfisher: 2 Belgium 1 Dec; 2 DB 13 Dec-13 Jan; 2 DeWitt 15 Dec.

Red-headed Woodpecker: FH 12 Jan; Scriba 13 Jan, 3-4 Feb, only reps.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 11 HI 17 Dec; 7 Syr 26 Jan.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: numerous reps of singles.

Downy Woodpecker: 11 HI 17 Dec; 10 Bre 17 Jan.

Hairy Woodpecker: 6 Dolge 12 Feb; 4 Hast 12 Feb.

Northern Flicker: max 10 HI 17 Dec-5 Jan; 7 Belgium 24 Dec.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 3 HI 17 Dec & 3 Bville 8 Jan & 3 Belgium 19 Jan.

American Kestrel: 3 Utica 13 Jan; widespread reps of singles.

Merlin: reps of singles from 20 locs, most in Dec.

Peregrine Falcon: max 3 Utica 13 Feb & 3 Utica 24 Feb; pair Utica thru; 2 Syr 15 Dec; singles at 7 other locs.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Eastern Phoebe: TR 12 Dec (GD), 2 Jan (JB, RK), 11 Feb (GD), 15 Feb (JB); DB 13 Dec (DW, DD); OnonL 12 Dec (BP), 12 Jan (MS); FH 11 Jan (mob); Oswego 5 Jan (WMR); unusual to have so many.

Northern Shrike: max 3 TR 11 Feb; few east of OneiL.

Blue Jay: 15 DeRuyter 1 Dec; max 16 Williamstown 8 Dec.

American Crow: max 7085 Syr 29 Jan.

Fish Crow: 3 OnonL 15 Dec; max 5 Bville 1 Feb & 5 Syr 11 Feb.

Common Raven: max 12 Amboy 7 Dec & 12 Gray 24 Dec; 9 BRH 10 Dec.

Horned Lark: 60 Warren, HERK 13 Jan; max 65 Fabius 22 Feb; relatively small counts.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 98 HI 17 Dec; 46 Hatch Lake 28 Dec.

Tufted Titmouse: max 18 Sherrill 16 Feb.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 6 Syr 15 Dec; 5 FH 10 Feb; above average reps.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 22 HI 17 Dec.

Brown Creeper: 3 Bville 28 Jan; max 4 GLSP 3 Feb.

Winter Wren: CM 15 Dec (DN); Marcellus 23 Jan (KF); Elbridge 10 Feb (KB); only reps.

Marsh Wren: 4 CM 15 Dec (DN), only rep.

Carolina Wren: 2 OnonL 1 Dec-12 Jan; 2 Elbridge; 2 Bridgeport 15 Dec; 2 Port Byron 17 Dec.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 4 BLNC 10 Dec & 4 Georgetown 28 Dec; rel. few reps.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Syr 7 (DD), 15 Dec (JL); OLC 12 Dec (BP); Jamesville 12 Dec (JL).

Eastern Bluebird: max 11 Belgium 4 Dec & 11 Hast 14 Jan; 11 TR 11 Feb.

Hermit Thrush: BLNC 18 Dec (DA), 3 Feb (mob); Kirkville 13 Jan (BW); FH 10 Feb (LK); GLSP 17 Feb (KF).

American Robin: max 552 Hannibal 16 Dec; 201 17 Dec.

Gray Catbird: Bville 2 Dec (GD); OLC 18 Jan (BLH), 2 Feb (KC); only reps.

Brown Thrasher: Kirkland 30 Jan (FP, ph), only rep.

Northern Mockingbird: 2 Syr 15 Dec; 2 OnonL 3 Feb; one rep east of OneiL.

European Starling: max 1000 Madison County Landfill 19 Dec.

Cedar Waxwing: max 80 WP 3 Jan; 45 Barneveld 18 Jan; relatively few reps.

House Sparrow: 75 Utica 25 Dec; max 120 SVB 1 Jan.

American Pipit: 6 OswH 24 Feb, only rep.

Evening Grosbeak: max 84 Sheds 8 Dec (LS); 71 Dolge 27 Feb (BLH); reps largely limited to high elevations.

House Finch: max 25 DeRuyter 1 Dec & 25 DeWitt 17 Jan.

Purple Finch: max 7 Sterling 12 Jan, 18 Feb & 7 Sherrill 18 Feb.

Common Redpoll: 80 Fabius 2-13 Jan; max 100 Bville 27 Feb; 60 SH 6 Feb; 60 Memphis 16 Feb.

Hoary Redpoll: GLSP 19 Feb (DD).

Red Crossbill: Syr 5 Dec (EM), only rep.

White-winged Crossbill: WP 1 Dec (DWe, MY); 3 Oswego 16 Dec; only reps.

Pine Siskin: max 50 Manlius 29 Dec; 27 Syr 4 Jan.

American Goldfinch: 50 Cedarville 21 Jan – 16 Feb; max 80 Dolge 7-9 Feb.

Lapland Longspur: first Manlius 24 Dec; 5 other reps of singles.

Snow Bunting: 200 Poland 11 Dec; max 4000 Richland 6 Feb (MB), amazing number; 200 Fairfield 8 Feb.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS- CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: Manlius 4 Dec-23 Feb (KC); Marcellus 30 Dec; only reps.

American Tree Sparrow: 25 GLSP 25 Dec; max 30 Verona 1 Jan & 30 Canastota 8 Jan.

Chipping Sparrow: Utica 8-9 Dec (KT); Syr 11 Dec thru (DD, ph), 1st for SYR CBC; WP 21 Dec (GM); unusual in winter.

Field Sparrow: several linger thru Dec OnonL (GD, DD); max 6 OnonL 13 Jan (GD); unusual in winter.

Vesper Sparrow: Tully 10 Jan-22 Feb (GH), unusual in winter.

Savannah Sparrow: OnonL 12, 15 Dec (DD, ph), 1st for SYR CBC; Bville 3 Feb (JB, RK), unusual in winter.

Fox Sparrow: Sheds 1 Dec thru Jan (LS); Waterville 4 Dec (RW); OnonL 20 Feb (KF); only reps.

Song Sparrow: max 17 OnonL 15 Dec; better than average numbers this period.

Swamp Sparrow: 2 OnonL 12-15 Dec (DD); singles from 4 other locs.

White-throated Sparrow: max 83 OnonL 23 Dec; 17 Elbridge 10 Feb.

HARRIS'S SPARROW: Earlville 18 Jan-3 Feb (HH!, mob, ph), 4th winter rec.

White-crowned Sparrow: 2 OnonL 11-15 Dec; 2 DB 12 Jan; 4 more reps of singles.

Dark-eyed Junco: 41 OnonL 12 Dec; max 60 Verona 1 Jan.

Eastern Meadowlark: no reps.

Baltimore Oriole: ad m Sheds 1-31 Dec (LS, mob, ph).

Red-winged Blackbird: 5 Fayetteville 29 Jan; 7 DB 13 Dec; max 70 Clay 15 Dec; reps from 7 other locs.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 4 Cassville 6 Dec; max 15 Clay 15 Dec; several more reps.

Rusty Blackbird: max 2 DB 13 Jan (GC); only rep.

Common Grackle: Hast 26-27 Dec; Waterville 17 Jan; Little Falls 18 Jan.

Common Yellowthroat: OnonL 12-15 Dec (DD, ph).

Northern Cardinal: 17 Camillus 16 Jan; max 18 West Winfield 26 Feb.